

**ABSTRACT**

A disposable diaper includes a top sheet, a liquid impervious back sheet, and a liquid absorbent core disposed therebetween ~~and has a front waist region and a back waist region, and a crotch region positioned therebetween.~~ The diaper has ~~end flaps extending outwards from respective end edges of the core and side flaps extending outwards from respective side edges of the core, and opening openings,~~ which pass through the top sheet and the core, and are formed in at least the crotch region of the diaper. The back sheet has a free portion which is disposed beneath the core and extendible downwards in its thickness direction. The back sheet further has a fixed and a fixed edge portion which is outside an outer periphery of the free portion and fixed to the top sheet. A plurality of longitudinally extending contractible elastic members ~~extend in the longitudinal direction and~~ are disposed at least in the free portion and the fixed edge portion. A plurality of transversely extending gathers ~~extending in a transverse direction~~ are formed under the contraction of the elastic members.